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## SEEKING THE WIFE WHO POISONED HIM.

It is a Strange Romance, That of  
Mr. and Mrs. R. F.  
Peters.

Their Courtship Began When He Es-  
corted Her Over a Muddy Cross-  
ing on a Wet Day.

INSURED HIS LIFE WHEN HE WEDDED.

Falling In an Attempt to Kill Him, She  
Chloroformed and Robbed a Sick  
Woman and Fled from  
Philadelphia.

R. F. Peters, an engraver, of No. 228  
South Eighth street, Philadelphia, is in this  
city searching for his wife, Bertha, who,  
he alleges, attempted to poison him with  
strychnine, and, failing in that, robbed sev-  
eral of his friends and fled to this city.  
Before she left his home she swore she  
would have his life yet.

Since his arrival in this city Peters has  
learned that his wife has been in prison  
five times and that her picture adorns the  
rogues' galleries in several cities; also that  
she travels under the aliases of Drake,  
Wilkinson, Viola Wilson, Dale, Williams  
and Miss Peters.

Peters resigned his position in Philadel-  
phia and started out in search of his wife  
without friends or money. He says his wife  
went to Philadelphia from Brooklyn  
about Christmas, 1894, and shortly after  
that he met her at the corner of Third  
and Spruce streets. The crossing was  
muddy, and Peters, who was attracted by  
her beauty, offered to escort her across the  
street.

She accepted his offer, and they did not  
part when the other side was reached. She  
told him that her name was Bertha Dreke  
and gave him permission to call upon her.  
They were married on February 2, 1894,  
but not until Bertha had persuaded him to  
have his life insured for \$6,000.

Shortly after the marriage Bertha re-  
solved upon him to move to her old resi-  
dence, No. 621 Spruce street. About one  
week after the change Peters experienced  
violent pains in his body and brain, and  
his life was almost despaired of. Bertha, how-  
ever, was taken sick herself, and Peters's  
condition improved steadily from that date.  
At the end of about three months he was  
pronounced out of danger and the doctor  
told him he had probably been poisoned.  
This led him to suspect his wife, and one  
day when she came to his bedside he  
charged her with attempting his life. Bertha  
cried, and protested that she loved him.  
She begged him to drink some liquid  
that she held to him in a glass, saying it  
would make him well. He was about to  
drink, but the doctor entered, and Bertha  
threw the glass to the floor, breaking it  
and spilling the contents.

Soon after this incident Peters was en-  
tirely recovered, and went to the office  
of the company in which his life was in-  
sured, and there learned that Bertha had  
called several times to find if she could  
draw the life insurance on the day of his  
death.

On August 25 Bertha went into the room  
of Mrs. Wise, at No. 807 North Eleventh  
street, and stole a gold watch and chain,  
after which she called on a Mrs. Wilkinson,  
who was sick in the same house. She  
chloroformed and robbed her of a gold  
watch and chain, and several other jewels.  
She then fled from the city.

The woman's mother, Mrs. Dreke, lives  
at No. 15 Varet street, Brooklyn. She  
says she has no idea where her daughter is.  
**May Be Wheels in the Metropolitan.**  
It was reported yesterday that the Met-  
ropolitan Opera House was to be turned  
into a bicycle rink for the summer, and  
that Anton Seidl's orchestra would furnish  
music to which the cyclists would cavort  
on the flooring to be placed over the or-  
chestra chairs. Richard Neville, representative  
of Abbey, Schoenfeld & Grant, said the report  
was premature. Some such plan had been  
considered, but nothing definite had been  
decided.



PROPOSED COAT OF ARMS FOR GREATER NEW YORK.

Max Bachmann, an artist who has gained considerable reputation both in sculpture and in painting, in  
Boston, his home, has recently turned his versatile fingers toward the designing of a coat-of-arms for the  
Greater New York.

The artist took for his main idea in the work the changes which have been wrought in New York City since  
the passage of the Ralnes bill. The centerpiece of the new coat-of-arms is like the present one, except the wings  
of the windmill in the original have been made into a knife and fork. These are crossed, however, and preserve  
a semblance to the original. Above the knife and fork in the center is a sign which informs New Yorkers that  
there is "No Free Lunch." Below is another: "Sandwiches, 5 Cents." To the right is a life-like pretzel, and on the  
left a glass of beer. Peering over the centerpiece, one eye bandaged up, is the Tammany tiger. The figure to the  
right, towering above and leaning on the centerpiece, represents Thomas C. Platt. In his hand he holds the Ralnes  
bill. To balance this figure, the one on the other side represents President Roosevelt, of the Police Board. He is  
in full uniform with a club in his hand.

Mr. Bachmann made several of the large figures and ornamental mouldings for Machinery Hall and Liberal  
Arts building at the World's Fair, and has also created much of the fancy moulding on several New York build-  
ings. He is stopping in this city with his brother at No. 14 Livingston place.

## COLOR LINE IN JAMAICA.

Another Parent Fined Under the Com-  
pulsory Educational Act—Children  
May Be Arrested.

Jamaica, L. I., April 9.—Justice B. F.  
Wood again yesterday fined a colored man  
under the Compulsory School act. A short  
time ago a man named Case was fined \$5 for  
not sending his son Jacob to school. The  
victim yesterday was Stephen White, who  
was taxed \$5 for not sending his fourteen-  
year-old son Frederick to school.

There are two schools in Jamaica, one for  
colored children and the other for white  
children. The colored children are refused  
admittance to the white school and many of  
their parents decline to send them to the  
colored school. They claim that as taxpay-  
ers they are entitled to send their children  
to the same school that the white children  
attend.

Forty or fifty more colored children are to  
be arrested by Constable William  
Wright. At the hearing to-day White was  
represented by Lawyer Alfred O. Cowan,  
while Lawyer Faber appeared for the Board  
of Education. The cases of Cisco and White  
are both to be appealed. This will cost  
Jamaica much money and the Board of Edu-  
cation does not like the situation. A meet-  
ing of the Board is to be held, at which  
it will be debated whether or not the col-  
ored school should be maintained in the vil-  
lage.

**Clock Cutters Strike.**  
A strike of twenty-four clock cutters employed  
by Oppenheim & Collins, No. 29 West Houston  
street, took place at noon yesterday against a  
reduction in wages of \$2 a week. They had  
been receiving \$20 and the proposal was to cut  
the wages to \$18 a week.

## MEANEST OF HUSBANDS, MOST MERCENARY OF WIVES.

With Money in Bank a Wife  
Demands Support from Her  
Sick Husband.

Makes, in Effect, the Plea That  
Even Though an Invalid, Her  
Husband Shall Work.

ADMITS THAT SHE HAS REAL ESTATE.

The Husband Says That He Divided Half  
His Fortune with Her a Few Years Ago  
and Would Gladly Give Her More if  
He Had It—He Is Discharged.

A plainly dressed, broken down looking  
man, named Alexander F. McLeod, was  
arraigned in the Yorkville Court yesterday  
afternoon on complaint of Johanna Mc-  
Leod, his wife, who charged him with non-support.

Mrs. McLeod is much younger than her  
husband, and presented a marked contrast  
to him so far as a healthy and vigorous  
appearance was concerned. She said they  
had been married nine years ago, and were  
without children. She lives, she said, in  
Patheogue, L. I., but has lately been stop-  
ping with a brother at No. 221 East Eighty-  
eighth street.

When the case was called by Magistrate  
Deuel and the husband dragged himself to  
the bar he seemed a fit subject for the  
hospital. He suffers from a paralytic affec-  
tion of the legs that has troubled him for  
five years.

"Your wife says you refuse to support  
her," said the Magistrate, "and that she  
is likely to become a charge on the county."

"That's not possible," replied McLeod,  
"for she doesn't live in the county. Be-  
sides, she has real estate at Patheogue and  
money in the Seamen's Bank."

"Now tell the truth," interposed the  
wife.

"But you do own property," persisted the  
husband.

"I've only got \$1,000 in the reality," said  
the wife.

"Yes, but you've money in bank," said  
McLeod. This the woman would not ad-  
mit.

Turning to the Court the husband said:  
"Five years ago, Your Honor, I struck  
\$10,000 in the mines in Butte, Mont., and  
I gave my wife half of it. I was then suf-  
fering from the trouble in my legs and  
was compelled to go to the Hot Springs for  
my health. I was under medical treat-  
ment until a year ago, when my money  
gave out. I have been unable to do any  
work since. Last October my wife drove  
me out of the house at the muzzle of a  
gun, and I've not been able to live with  
her since. If I had a dollar I'd give her  
80 cents of it now."

"You're discharged," said the Court.  
"He's only lazy," said the wife.

## WOMAN FIGHTS A BURGLAR

He Grabs Mrs. Bernard Hoffman by the  
Throat and Knocks Her Down at  
Northport, L. I.

Northport, L. I., April 9.—Mrs. Bernard  
Hoffman was awakened about 2 o'clock  
this morning by the noise made by a  
burglar forcing an entrance into the lower  
part of her residence. She went down-  
stairs to investigate.

When she reached the dining room the  
burglar grabbed her by the throat. She  
screamed for help. The thief struck her  
and knocked her down. A man who was  
passing heard her screams, and rushed in  
the house and captured the burglar.  
Two hours after her exciting adventure  
Mrs. Hoffman gave birth to a child.

With Money in Bank, a Print-  
er Refuses to Support  
His Family.

Makes the Astonishing Plea That  
What He Has Saved from Wages  
Is His Alone to Spend.

TELLS HIS WIFE TO SEEK CHARITY.

The Wife Who Helped Him Save the  
Money Applies to a Magistrate to Com-  
pel the Husband to Support His  
Family—Allowed \$7 a Week.

Two policemen yesterday morning at 11  
o'clock pulled Paul De Martini, a journey-  
man printer, out of bed in his home, at No.  
41 Sullivan street, and took him to the  
Jefferson Market Police Court, where he  
was arraigned for refusing to support his  
wife and four children, though fully able  
to do so.

Martini had regular employment as a  
printer until February 1, when he was dis-  
charged. During the fifteen years he has  
been married he has saved \$1,400, which  
is now in a bank to his credit. In spite of  
the fact that his wife and children are  
suffering from the necessities of life, he has  
refused to furnish them with money.

When their condition became desperate and  
his wife pleaded with him for money to  
buy coal, he told her to go to Superintendent  
Blake, of the Charities Department,  
and get it. He positively refused to give  
either her or her children anything.

In court yesterday Mrs. Martini said they  
were married in 1881. "Since February of  
this year, when he was thrown out of  
employment, he has not," said his wife,  
"tried to secure a position. He sleeps late  
in the morning and does nothing."

"I think you should be ashamed to treat  
your wife and children so," said Magistrate  
Crane to the prisoner.

"They can go to the devil," Martini re-  
torted with a grin. "I shall not draw my  
money out of the bank to support them.  
I spent \$5 to marry this woman and have  
regretted it ever since. That money is mine  
and they shall not have it."

The wife stated that it was through  
her economy that her husband had been  
able to save the \$1,400, and she thought she  
and her children were certainly entitled to  
support from it.

Magistrate Crane thought so, too, and  
placed the husband under bond to pay his  
wife \$7 a week for her support. Martini  
secured the bond and left the court mum-  
bling about the "indignity of the affair."

## ONLY TWO DAYS A BRIDE.

Old Sea Captain Marries a Fisherman's  
Daughter and Deserts Her Forty-  
eight Hours Later.

Newburyport, Mass., April 9.—The resi-  
dents of this city are discussing a most re-  
markable wedding and the desertion of the  
bride by her husband after a honeymoon of  
just forty-eight hours. The contracting  
parties were Captain Ephraim Adams, aged  
fifty, and Miss Mary Fassett, aged sixteen.

One night this week the Captain was in-  
troduced to the young girl at a gathering  
in a fisherman's home. The Captain was  
enamored of the young woman and pro-  
posed marriage. Miss Fassett accepted him  
and they were married early the following  
morning.

After being married for two days the  
husband sailed for parts unknown. A house  
had been furnished for the couple, and  
when the merchant heard of the sudden  
departure of the Captain he stripped the  
house of its belongings. There is great in-  
dignation among the fishermen. And it will  
not be well for the recreant Captain to  
appear in his old haunts.

## TWIN SISTERS SUED FOR A BOARD BILL.

The Everett House Landlord Is  
Making Efforts to Collect  
a Large Debt.

Mrs. Hartt and Mrs. Baldwin Repudi-  
ate the Action of Their  
Attorney.

SEEM TO HAVE A LARGE INCOME.

They Display Great Shrewdness on the  
Stand and Cleverly Evade the  
Questions of the Cur-  
ious Lawyers.

The financial difficulties of twin sisters  
seventy-five years old is the subject of an  
interesting suit now pending in the Su-  
preme Court, upon an order of which a  
hearing in supplementary proceedings was  
had yesterday afternoon before Referee  
Hamilton Odell, of No. 120 Broadway.

The sisters are Mrs. Nancy A. Hartt and  
Mrs. Lucretia B. Baldwin, who, it is al-  
leged, owe John S. Weaver and Francis  
M. Coleman, former proprietors of the Ever-  
ett House, a balance of \$2,400 for board.  
The sisters occupied a handsome suite of  
apartments at the hotel from 1892 to 1894,  
and ran up bills which at times reached  
\$10,000. The complaint in the action shows  
that on January 1, 1894, the sum of \$5,000  
was paid on account, and four months  
later an additional installment of \$1,000  
was paid. They left the hotel in July,  
1894, owing a balance of \$2,400.

The proprietors of the hotel placed the  
bill with Lawyer Walter F. Severance for  
collection. He located the sisters in apart-  
ments at the Gerard House, and made sev-  
eral vain attempts to secure payment, and  
then began suit against Mrs. Hartt, as she  
was the one who had always paid the bills  
and was regarded as the responsible one of  
the pair. She retained the services of  
Lawyer Edward S. Kelly, to whom she ex-  
plained that the bill would be paid in  
time from the settlement of an estate in  
Europe from which she expected to hear  
daily.

DENIED THE DEBT AT FIRST.

Mrs. Baldwin was anxious to be named  
as defendant, instead of her sister. The  
lawyer, it is alleged, informed his client  
that the only way to delay the hearing was  
to make a general denial of the claim, which  
was done. He subsequently told them that  
the case could not be delayed longer and  
he would have to withdraw the answer and  
allow a judgment to be taken if a settle-  
ment were not made. The answer was  
withdrawn and a judgment rendered for  
\$5,000.

A deputy sheriff called on the sisters at  
the Gerard House February 11. They were  
very indignant at the annoyance occasioned  
by the official's visit.

The execution was returned unsatisfied.  
The sisters then retained Lawyer W. L.  
Cannon, who made a motion before Justice  
McLane in the Supreme Court to reopen  
the case. The case was referred to the  
referee, before whom Mrs. Hartt testified  
that, as she had paid all the bills at the  
hotel, it was only fair that Mrs. Baldwin  
should be made a defendant in the present  
action. She denied emphatically that Law-  
yer Kelly had been instructed to withdraw  
the answer of denial. As to her sister's  
financial condition, she said she knew she  
owned a cranberry bog in New Jersey, but  
that she had no income. One brother, she  
said, was a bank president, but she re-  
fused to give his name.

Mrs. Hartt was put on the stand yester-  
day and she also denied that Lawyer Kelly  
had been instructed to withdraw the an-  
swer of denial. She said she was willing  
to be sued in the present action, but ac-  
knowledgeed that her sister always paid  
all bills. She said they were highly con-  
nected and were interested in a number of  
church charitable societies, but refused to  
mention the name of a relative or a so-  
ciety.

**OBTAINED LITTLE INFORMATION.**  
The lawyers used every means in their  
power to get direct answers from her, but  
she parried their questions and showed a  
remarkable knowledge of law. She was  
richly dressed in a dark material and wore  
gold glasses. For a woman of her age she  
has a very youthful face. She smiled when-  
ever a question she did not wish to answer  
was asked, looked up at the ceiling, then  
gave an answer that came within the legal  
range, but failed to enlighten the lawyers.  
Lawyer Kelly testified that Mrs. Hartt  
instructed him to withdraw the answer, but  
said that the twins were so much alike that  
he could scarcely tell one from the other.

Hugh Sharp, of No. 35 Warren street,  
testified that when he served the papers  
on the sisters at the Gerard House, a  
friend of the twins, a Mrs. Isham, offered  
him \$100 if he would take the subpoenas  
back.

## HIGH HATS COME OFF.

A Few Ohio Women, However, Still Wear  
"Scoops," but Theatre Managers  
Are More Cheerful.

Cincinnati, O., April 9.—That the Posi-  
ble High Hat law will not be a dead letter has  
been demonstrated by several incidents at  
the theatres. At the Grand eight society  
women with "scoops" were effectively  
squashed by an ordinary little woman, who  
paid to see Herrmann and complained to  
the manager that the high hats shut out  
her view.

The ushers at once notified the women to  
take off their hats. They protested to the  
manager, saying they had just dropped into  
the theatre from a shopping tour and their  
hair was not presentable. The manager  
compromised by changing their seats, they  
promising to pay the bill should he be  
fined.

At Heck's, without complaint, the ushers  
asked some women to take off their hats.  
The managers can be fined for each high  
hat worn, and they do not care to take  
chances. A majority of the women now  
wear small hats or take them off altogether,  
and it is thought there will be no trouble  
as soon as the law is understood.

## DRIVEN MAD BY LOSS OF FORTUNE.

Ill Luck Pursued Oscar Roapcke  
at Whatever He Tried  
to Do.

Was Well Off at One Time but Failed,  
and Was Never Able to Re-  
gain His Feet.

TAKEN TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

Unfortunate Man's Business Troubles  
Caused Him to Lose Sleep and He  
Became Insane—Has a Wife  
and Ten Children.

Oscar Roapcke, who was taken from his  
home, No. 150 East Fourth street, yesterday  
in a straitjacket to the insane pavilion at  
Bellevue, was driven mad by frequent fail-  
ures in business and the loss of a large for-  
tune.

Roapcke had \$15,000 invested in a cap  
manufacturing business at Union Hill, near  
Hoboken. He employed a large number of  
hands and did work for several concerns in  
the city. But the business did not flourish  
and Roapcke was practically ruined. There  
were a few hundred dollars left out of the  
wreck of his business, and he moved to New  
York with his wife and family, consisting  
of ten children. He started in the cap busi-  
ness afresh, but things went wrong again.

With the remnant of his fortune he opened  
a small grocery and delicatessen store on  
Fourth street. His wife assisted him in  
running the store, but again luck was  
against him and there was another failure.  
He managed to dispose of his stock and fix-  
tures for a few hundred dollars and invested  
his all in a milk route. This he made over  
to a son, but the son was unfortunate and  
every dollar was lost. It was a hard blow  
when Roapcke realized he was penniless.

He had grown prematurely old in the  
few years of struggle against adversity,  
and was broken down in health.

Roapcke could not sleep at night, and he  
began to act strangely. He was constant-  
ly engaged in adding up long columns of  
figures.

Mrs. Roapcke obtained a place as house-  
keeper of the row of tenements on Fourth  
street, into one of which she moved with  
her husband and family.

Recently Roapcke would break out in a  
violent manner, and it became necessary  
to restrain him. He spoke ramblingly of  
suicide, and when one night he went  
through the apartments and turned on all  
the gas jets he came very nearly not only  
asphyxiating himself but the rest of the  
members of his household.

The demented man showed signs of vio-  
lence yesterday, and Mrs. Roapcke went  
to the East Fifth Street Station and asked  
that a policeman be sent to the house.  
An ambulance was summoned from Bel-  
levue, and Roapcke was taken to the insane  
pavilion. He will be sent to the insane  
asylum on Ward's Island to-day.

## Lilliputian Gladiators Draw.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 9.—Steve Flana-  
gan and Milt Tierney, two local aspirants  
for little honors, fought forty rounds in pri-  
vate at Camden this morning. Only fifty  
men had the tip, and at the close of the  
fortieth round a rumor having been circu-  
lated that the police were coming, the re-  
feree called the battle a draw. Flanagan,  
however, did most of the leading for twenty  
rounds. A prominent sporting man guaran-  
teed a purse of \$250 for another fight be-  
tween them in two weeks, which both  
agreed to.

## Got \$8,000 for His Broken Leg.

Because his leg was broken in an accident  
to one of his cars, the Long Island Railroad  
Company must give Joseph Bamford \$8,000,  
according to a judgment rendered by Justice  
Brookover in Special Term. Part V., of the  
Supreme Court yesterday. Bamford had de-  
manded \$50,000. Some time in the summer  
of 1893 Bamford was standing on the foot-  
board of a car near the terminus at Coney  
Island when the car was hurled from the  
track by a broken rail and his leg was  
broken in two places.



Miss Kate Brill, Deputy Clerk of Hempstead.

This young woman's father was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for  
re-election as Town Clerk of Hempstead. At the election this week he was  
beaten, as were all the other Democrats, but, thanks to his deputy's cam-  
paigning, he ran far ahead of the other candidates on his ticket.



Mrs. Peters, Who Tried to Kill Her Husband for His Insurance

R. F. Peters, of Philadelphia, met a pretty young woman on the street  
one day and helped her over a muddy crossing. Their courtship began forth-  
with, and they were married not long after. He insured his life for \$6,000.  
Some time ago, he says, she poisoned him, but he recovered. Recently, he  
says, she made another attempt, but failed and fled, after robbing two wo-  
men. The husband is seeking for her in this city.